

Kentucky Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission
September 28th, 2005
Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History
Frankfort, Kentucky

Present: Lindy Casebier, Kimberly Clay, Warren Greer, Kate Hesseldenz, James Holmberg (Chairman), Ed Houlihan, James Mallory, Reginald Meeks, Mac McClure, Lisa Murphy, Stuart Sanders, Kim Lady Smith, Katie Stine

Introductions

Chairman Holmberg started the meeting with introductions.

Personnel Update

Warren Greer has replaced Kate Hesseldenz as Program Coordinator. Community Services Branch Manager, Chuck Backus, is no longer with the Kentucky Historical Society (KHS). This position should be filled by the new year.

New Budget

Kim Lady Smith updated the Commission on the upcoming budget request, which will include funding for the Program Coordinator Position. Chairman Holmberg expressed the need for continued vigor, planning, and follow-up to ensure adequate funding for 2006, with emphasis on the homecoming return. McClure mentioned the National Park Service grant of \$10,000 for Natural & Cultural Resources Preservation for the Lewis and Clark Trail. Discussion of previous grants ensued. Mallory expressed opinion that acquiring state funds is vital, because federal money is being affected by the nation wind-down of Lewis and Clark Bicentennial-related activities. Mallory also expressed the need to explore private funding with matching money possibilities, and the need to create a fiscal plan with backup plan.

Markers and Trail Sites

Stuart Sanders reported on behalf of the KHS Highway Marker Program. Sanders assured the Commission that Lewis and Clark markers are a priority. Markers 2190 and 2193 have been approved, and 7-10 other markers are in the final stages of the process. Chairman Holmberg stated that the need for markers is related to the legacy of Lewis and Clark and the establishment of a trail in Kentucky. Mallory inquired as to a letter concerning markers that was sent to Kim Smith. Mallory stated that a new request for markers was forthcoming and important.

Filson Grant

Chairman Holmberg stated that progress is being made on website content. Work on the layout and format of the site is in the early stages, with the target deadline for completion being the end of 2005. Lisa Murphy reported on the

status of the KHS website, which has been planned to house the Lewis and Clark site. The KHS website is currently being redesigned, thus possibly pushing back significantly the date in which the Lewis and Clark site goes online. Discussion then commenced on alternative possibilities for housing the site.

The creation of a Kentucky Lewis and Clark brochure was mentioned, using the Falls of the Ohio brochure as a model.

Education/Outreach

Discussion then turned to educational projects in general. Chairman Holmberg informed the group that Lewis and Clark will be included at the Kentucky State Fair as part of a North American geography theme.

It was mentioned that David Wicks is interested in Lewis and Clark educational opportunities as they relate to environmental issues.

McClure stated that educational activities should be coordinated so that redundancy is avoided.

It was noted that the Tourism Fall Conference takes place on Oct. 24th- 26th. Greer was instructed to reserve a booth at the Conference and report back to Mallory. Greer expressed that he would be available to staff the booth in cooperation with Mallory.

Greer was instructed to inquire into a booth at "Tall Stacks," a music, arts and heritage festival in Cincinnati that celebrates America's steam boating era. "Tall Stacks is scheduled for Oct. 4th-8th, 2006.

Community Meeting

The possibility of postponing the Community Meeting scheduled for October 13th was entertained and vetoed. The need for last-minute invitations was discussed. The schedule for the meeting was discussed. A Lewis and Clark DVD would be playing as guests arrive. Updates for individual communities and announcement of the grant program were requested as agenda items.

CORP 2

Several members of the Commission expressed interest in continuing to pursue the extension of the CORP 2 project so as to schedule a visit to Kentucky. Other states have requested visitation of the project including North Carolina, Georgia and Indiana. It was agreed that Congressional support would be needed and would have to overcome the widely-held perception of dwindling interest in Lewis and Clark Bicentennial activities as well as natural disaster-related and war-related budget pressures. It was agreed to keep looking into the possibility of continuing the project.

Eastern-States Trail Extension

The idea of a joint resolution from the Kentucky House of Representatives and Senate requesting Congressional approval of official trail extension was discussed and approved by all present. Meeks and Casebier agreed to work in concert to draft such a resolution and plan its presentation to the Kentucky Legislature. The 2000 joint resolution declaring the importance of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial was cited as an example of such an act.

McClure expressed the need for a multi-state effort if trail extension is to be secured. Holmberg agreed and stated that support is there but coordination is needed.

KHS Exhibit

Talks between Kent Whitworth, Executive Director of the Kentucky Historical Society, and Mark Wetherington, Executive Directory, have been fruitful. The Filson will loan its Lewis and Clark museum exhibit to the KHS for \$15,000. The exhibit will open on October 1st, 2006 and will be on display until January of 2007.

Electronic Newsletter

Chairman Holmberg expressed the desire for an e-newsletter to be produced by Warren Greer monthly or quarterly. Possible subject matter includes the grant program, marker dedications, "this date in history," marketing information.

Next Meeting

The next meeting was set for November 16th, 11:30 am-1 pm., in the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History in Frankfort.